

Cllr Ms Angharad Davies ESCC Northern Rother Report for Parish Councils December 2017

I can't believe it is the end of the year already and it is time to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

You have probably heard about the international campaign recently to help to eliminate violence against women and girls. In 2016 there were 8,285 domestic violence and abuse cases reported to police in East Sussex, an increase of 30% since 2014, while the number of sexual offences reported soared 106% in the same period. East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is supporting a range of events to mark the 16 days of Action which runs from the UN International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women and White Ribbon Day on November 25th to Human Rights Day on December 10th.

ESCC was awarded White Ribbon status for the second time in 2016 which recognises the positive role men play in preventing violence against women.

Our MPs have been busy. Huw Merriman has had the first reading of his "Automatic Travel Compensation Bill" which would ensure that passengers on trains, flights and other domestic transport have their bank accounts automatically credited with the compensation owed. The second reading comes up in March.

Amber Rudd and Huw Merriman responded immediately to the Roads Minister, Jesse Norman, concerning a new report by the Road Safety Foundation which cited the A21 from Hurst Green to Hastings as the highest risk road on England's strategic road network. The roads minister has committed to meeting an East Sussex delegation in Parliament to discuss this important issue.

East Sussex Highways have won a national award for a pioneering approach to dealing with problems more efficiently. This innovation using a more "personalised" approach, and more technology, has seen customer satisfaction levels increase to 75% and call response times slashed from 90 seconds to 9 seconds. The public, customer service advisers, and highway stewards use the same software system, while customers can report and track incidents online. We are all using this system effectively, but it is good to know this earned "silver" in the small contact centre category at the UK Customer Experience Awards.

Thousands of winter deaths in England are linked to inadequate heating and poorly insulated homes. People, especially the old and those with chronic conditions, are urged to do all they can to keep warm in winter. Many will be eligible for the winter home check call 0800 085 1674

-know your free emergency numbers: in a power cut dial 105, for a gas emergency dial 0800 111999

-keep a torch handy and get appliances serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning,

-register as a vulnerable customer: sign up to the Priority Services Register (see UK Power Networks website)

A pioneering service which helps people with Dementia has been recognised in a national awards scheme. Community Support workers from ESCC work directly with GPs to offer help and support to dementia sufferers. This service is a pilot running as part of Healthy Hastings and Rother, set up by the Hastings & Rother CCG. Together with the Memory Assessment Service for the diagnosis of dementia we are starting to see improvements in this area.

16 Parents of absentee children have been taken to court for failing to ensure their children attend school. ESCC ran a hard-hitting campaign "Get a grip" and "Don't be a mug" which is running through the current school year. In total the parents were hit with £2370 in fines and £3300 in court costs after failing to pay fixed penalty notices for their child's poor attendance. Every day of school missed affects a child's education and ESCC takes this problem very seriously. Standards can't be raised if children don't go to school.

The county's Registration Team has received national recognition from the Local Registration Services Association (LRSA). ESCC's Registration Service gained the Award for Excellence in Service Delivery at a special ceremony. The team provides registration for births, marriages, and deaths across the county.

All my very good wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas

Angharad